

THE PLAN AND ITS PURPOSE

Maryland's Tributary Strategy Statewide Implementation Plan moves the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort forward by providing critical background information and detailing next steps to implement *Maryland's Tributary Strategy*. The plan consists of two major parts. Part I provides separate implementation strategies for point sources, stormwater, septic systems, growth management, agriculture, and air deposition and identifies other State initiatives to address the implementation gaps. Part II contains strategies to achieve, maintain, and monitor water quality goals. It includes information on coordination between regulatory- and incentive-based programs; the Cap Management Strategy; target areas for additional research, demonstrations, and outreach; and tracking and monitoring progress.

Specifically, this implementation plan strives to achieve the following objectives:

- **Provide an Implementation Schedule:** Each implementation schedule includes an estimate of the Tributary Strategy actions expected to be implemented in the next 2- and 5-year periods.
- **Define Program Coordination:** The plan highlights how State agencies are working collaboratively to implement programs that help achieve the Tributary Strategy commitments.
- **Address Implementation Barriers:** There

are many barriers to fully implementing the Tributary Strategy's commitments. This section identifies a number of possible solutions and near-term initiatives led by State agencies to overcome the barriers.

- **Report Implementation Progress:** While this plan does not provide a comprehensive report on progress made to date in the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, it outlines a plan for reporting progress in the future.

Part I: Statewide Tributary Basin Implementation Plan

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Tables are included for each major source area to provide an estimate of the expected implementation of each Tributary Strategy commitment based on existing and near-term budgets and programs. These estimates are derived from a number of guiding principals, including projected funding from known sources, tracked implementation rates as a result of regulation or voluntary participation, and feedback from the local level on the feasibility of implementation in the near-term.

CURRENT PROGRAMS

IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY

This section defines the existing State programs working to implement the

Tributary Strategy commitments. Programs are regulatory- and incentive-based and often rely heavily on the work of local governments, Soil Conservation Districts, private landowners, and others to ensure policies and programs result in action.

IMPLEMENTATION BARRIERS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

To increase the awareness and understanding of *Maryland's Tributary Strategy*, meetings were held with specific stakeholder groups throughout the State during 2004. The stakeholder groups included Tributary Team members, local government staff, the agriculture community, and local watershed organizations. Meeting attendees reviewed the strategy and identified what the real or perceived

barriers were to fully implementing its commitments. In addition, the meeting participants generated a number of potential solutions to overcome the barriers. A summary of these meetings is provided in each section. It is hoped that the stakeholder groups and organizations will use this plan to develop priorities for policy, program, and regulatory changes so that local activities become a solid foundation for meeting local water quality standards and Chesapeake Bay restoration goals.

STATE INITIATIVES

TO ADDRESS THE IMPLEMENTATION GAPS

While Maryland alone cannot fully restore the Chesapeake Bay's water quality, much has been done and will be done to ensure the State's continued leadership in Bay



Maryland's Tributary Teams conduct field tours to educate their members, local residents, and government officials about important issues facing their local watershed.

Many Tributary Teams conduct hands-on projects, such as this team which is building an oyster bar. These initiatives often involve partnerships and the participation of local residents.



restoration efforts. This section provides a summary of initiatives that demonstrate Maryland's commitment to remain a Bay restoration leader. It includes a list of future actions needed to boost the implementation of practices that reduce the flow of nutrients and sediments to the Chesapeake Bay. These initiatives are broken out into 2-year, 5-year, and long-term increments to set realistic goals in attainable timeframes. As the process moves forward and more knowledge is obtained, these initiatives will be revisited and revised to incorporate the latest information, technology, and Tributary Team recommendations.

STAKEHOLDER ROLES

IN IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY

To some extent, everyone who lives in the Chesapeake Bay watershed is responsible for taking the necessary actions to restore its living resources. This section briefly defines the specific roles or responsibilities of the groups whose policies and decisions will

have the most impact on the implementation of the Tributary Strategy goals.

Part II: Strategies to Achieve, Maintain, and Monitor Water Quality Goals

Part II of this plan describes cross-cutting initiatives and challenges that the State must implement and address to facilitate the Tributary Strategy's implementation and to build a framework to maintain water quality in the future. These sections address the coordination between the various regulatory and land use planning processes, nutrient cap management, additional research, and restoration progress monitoring.

COORDINATION BETWEEN REGULATORY- AND INCENTIVE-BASED PROGRAMS

This section describes how existing State and local programs and policies are working to implement the Tributary Strategy. This includes future initiatives to improve

coordination between Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, growth management, local planning processes, and the many incentive-based cost-share programs.

CAP MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Achieving the nutrient and sediment loading caps will be an unprecedented challenge that will require the efforts of all the people living in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Maintaining the caps poses challenges that Maryland and its Bay partners will face for decades to come. This implementation plan outlines some of those challenges and provides information on the tools, programs, and collaboration that exists today or will be needed in the future to effectively manage the cap and maintain the Chesapeake Bay's water quality standards.

FOCUS AREAS

TO TARGET ADDITIONAL RESEARCH, DEMONSTRATIONS, AND OUTREACH

It is possible that existing technologies and the programs to implement them will not fully achieve the water quality goals or, at least, achieve them cost effectively. This section will identify the areas where more research and demonstration projects are needed to bring innovative concepts for reducing nutrient loads to the Bay into mainstream application throughout the watershed.

TRACKING AND MONITORING PROGRESS

In cooperation with the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program, Maryland will provide updates on the progress to meet the Tributary Strategy goals. These updates will include, but not be limited to, tracked

implementation of best management practices (BMPs) and water quality and living resource responses and will be done in cooperation with the *EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Indicators Report*.

